

**COULBY NEWHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Minutes of Monday 10<sup>th</sup> February 2014 in Langdon Square Community Centre**

**PRESENT** Councillors Jan Brunton and Geoff Cole, Judith Hedgley (Middlesbrough Council Environmental Health Manager) Fire Officer Jonathon Davies (Coulby Newham Fire Station) PCSO Nick Fuller (acting for PCSO Rob Brooks of Coulby Newham Police Office) Debi Whitehead (Chair) Joan Cook (Sec) plus residents

**APOLOGIES** Joan Davies

**FIRE OFFICER DAVIES** told the meeting that, in our area, since the beginning of 2014, there has been just one accidental car fire but several small, deliberately started fires. Wheelie bins have been used in quite a few of these. He advised not putting them out too early for collection. Once set alight the flames from fires started in a Wheelie Bin can actually flare high enough to ignite the plastic guttering. He showed a Wheelie Bin Lock consisting of a heavy chain and bolt to secure to something solid, available free but only to Erimus residents. There was some interest here. More information is needed on where to buy them.

**Chief Inspector Lamplugh** sent optimistic crime figures for Middlesbrough for the month of January. Compared to January 2013 there were 120 fewer crimes - and so 120 fewer victims. Of house burglaries - 3 out of 4 were committed via entry through insecure doors and windows, even when residents were at home. **PCSO FULLER** read out these details with advice to lock up anything not in view and to phone the Police or Crimestoppers to give pertinent information...

In Coulby Newham the full total of local crimes was 21. There were 10 thefts (e.g. shoplifting) There were no Burglaries at all. Anti-Social Behaviour is counted separately and totalled 26. Most of these were complaints about rowdy neighbours. Youngsters' Anti-Social Behaviour - 7. Website crime - 4.

A resident wondered about a railway barrier he spotted being taken away in a vehicle. He reported the incident to the Police. PCSO Fuller was not aware of any feedback on this at the moment.

Several cars have been gathering around about Thistle Rise area with drivers revving their engines, playing thumping music - and being a nuisance to neighbours. PCSO Fuller said please report this sort of thing - anonymously, if you feel uncomfortable giving your name. He said he would give the information to Rob.

A resident of Woodlea wanted to pass on his appreciation of the Police for monitoring the estates. He said some people complain they never see a Policeman but he sees them regularly. Their presence is appreciated.

. Guest speaker **JUDITH HEDGLEY** told the meeting that **Environmental Health Department** is made up of several Teams that monitor all kinds of things on our behalf. One Team keeps a check on Food Businesses. These then fall into various categories - takeaways, wrapped food, shops, markets etc. and are rated on a scale of 0-5. Nationwide, every single business is checked and rated this way. Some outlets e.g. Takeaways are checked every 6 months. Of the 1,000 food businesses in Middlesbrough 80% are 5 Rated, which is very good. There are not too many problem premises. Environmental Health may close 5 or 6 a year. These are then 0 - 1 rated which means they have had to be closed or are giving cause for concern. Those that have been shut down are usually unhygienic and dirty, some with mouse infestation. *To illustrate the point Judith produced an extremely lifelike rat from her handbag!!!* These will be checked over by Environmental Health before being allowed to re-open, following which they are monitored closely.

Questions were asked about foreign labelled food, outlets changing hands, fresh food outdoor stall holders - all should be registered. Asked about situations where samples of food have to be taken away for checking Judith said they are sent to Laboratories in Leeds and Durham for analysis and reports.

Middlesbrough Council awards Ratings Certificates to all premises. These can put on view if desired. In Wales a law is about to be passed to make this compulsory. Healthy Options Certificates are also being given where healthy food is promoted e.g. to restaurants and schools where children are encouraged to be aware of a good diet.

**For Trading Standards** Judith said this Team promotes fair trading to make sure all businesses observe the same laws. They oversee Community Credit, Licences, Safety, Trademarks and much more.

Judith showed counterfeit goods such as a Mulberry handbag sold for £350, which is Mulberry price - but was a cheap copy and a Hair Straightening Tongs set for £75 - also a copy.

Regarding Safety, she showed a dubious hairdryer, electronic cigarette with dodgy charger, a flimsy child's umbrella, easily breakable jewellery chain and a cigarette lighter whose high flame would be able to set the guttering alight.

More expensive topics came under Trading Standards scrutiny such as Garages where commitments on cars sold were not observed and Landlords who did not honour tenancy deposits. On much larger scale illegal tobacco is being sold from Fag Houses by major crime gangs. With fair trade and good health in mind Trading Standards is trying hard to stop this

Last year Middlesbrough's Trading Standards received 836 criminal complaints. They made 503 Inspections. As a result of their diligence 125,000 children's' umbrellas were withdrawn from around the country and every previously mentioned hairdryer too.

Judith gave the following Numbers for contact and asked for anyone with any information on Tobacco and Underage Sales to please phone 01642 **728869**.

To check on Food Business Ratings look up **food.gov.uk** then **hygiene rating**.

The National Helpline for Citizens Advice is 0845 **04 05 06**

**"Hemlington we have lift off"** Almost. Investigative work has today begun on Hemlington Grange land to ensure all will be in order when the foundations are laid...

**COUNCILLOR BRUNTON** reported a lot of activity on the highways of the southern part of the town as ongoing and imminent - such as Low Lane roundabout for Stainsby Hall Farm and new development by Miller Homes. On Dixon's Bank new accesses will be made to Grey Towers Housing Development and Ladgate Lane will be widened with a new access road leading into Prussic Sports Development...

At the A19/A174 'Pinch Point' junction the southern and western lanes of the roundabout will be widened. The eastbound A174 will be widened to 3 lanes up to the Stainton Interchange, also in the other direction to Thornaby Industrial Estate. This will include a new roundabout.

#### **Residents asked**

*"Is there enough money in the Boro Bank to repair Woodrush road surface. It's down to hard core? The stones could end up in the drains"* Councillor Brunton said there is a long list of these sort of jobs but she added Woodrush to her list.

*"The ponds, becks and drains near Lingfield Countryside Centre are giving concern"* Environment people check these every 3 months. .

*"Are more trees being taken out of Thistle Rise verges to make extra parking spaces for residents? Some works vans are appearing in the spaces"* Thistle Rise is an Erimus estate. They are overseeing the parking.

*"The bollard nearest The Manor Youth Club at the bottom of the footpath alongside the Rainbow has been removed. Vehicles are driving along there e.g. the Fish Van. Children walk up to the Baths this way"* Noted.

*"There's been a lack of lighting in the same area for years"* Councillors are investigating.

*"In view of the flooding in the south of the UK is our River Tees being dredged?"* No one said they knew.

*"With flooding in mind how will the builders safeguard the forthcoming development at Clairville? Nearby Croydon Road has been under water several times"* There will be a 'dipped area' in the middle.

*"What happened about the planned holding pond on the Golf Course"* No one knew about that but Councillor Brunton said work on Marton West Beck has been done to help.

*"Why was the Hand Car Wash granted permission to operate in TESCO side car park when it was unanimously opposed by the Community Council?"* The Planned site of operation was moved away from Harvington Chase Flats and instead of 18 spaces will now only take up 10. There was no legitimate reason for the Planning Committee to object.

Finally, Councillor Brunton told the meeting about the Coulby News coming to an end and thanked the Team for 36 years of printing and delivering this free mag. around local estates. Several members of the Team were present to hear residents' applause. Joan Cook for the Coulby News, told the meeting that around 60 people were involved in the whole operation. Closure was due not only to an unreliable machine but the need for more help on the editing side. Since the Winter/final edition has been delivered through the doors announcing the end the Team has been surprised to receive several kind offers of new printing machines.

**The meeting closed at 8.30pm Thanks to all who attended**

